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SOVIETS EXPLOITING GDR CHEMICAL INDUSTRY;
NEW TYPE CARBON BLACK PRODUCED IN RUMANIA

SOVIET EXPLOITATION OF EAST GERMAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY -- Paris, Force Ouvriere,
1 Oct 53

Although the Russians had dismantled over 60 percent of the East German chemical industry's production capacity by 1948, they have continued to expropriate the output of the largest producers. In 1951, according to reliable information, the value of the total chemical production of the Soviet Zone was 3,767,000,000 Deutsche marks; of this amount, products worth 675 million Deutsche marks went to the Soviet Union as reparations, constituting 20 percent of the total reparations for that year. The second largest supplier of reparations was the electrical equipment industry (512 million Deutsche marks), followed by the heavy machine building industry (490 million Deutsche marks).

In 1952, the total value of the chemical products delivered to the Soviet Union as reparations nearly equaled the 1951 amount, with some variation in the types of products. Medicines represented nearly 51 percent of the chemical products delivered.

The needs of the East German population are not being satisfied. The synthetic gasoline produced in the GDR is consumed by the Red Army and the People's Police. The Russians are dumping other products, notably chemical fertilizers, on the export market in exchange for dollars or raw materials needed by their armament industries. The value of the chemical products exported in this manner in 1951 exceeded 335 million Deutsche marks.

It is doubtful that the GDR government's promises of better living conditions will be kept. The 200,000 persons employed by the chemical industry, of whom 60 percent are women, are finding their wages diminishing in spite of increased productivity. However, skilled technical personnel are accorded special advantages in order to discourage their emigration to the West: for example, they are paid 5,000 marks or more per month and are being relieved of party obligations, such as attendance at meetings and political instruction.

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PRODUCTION OF CARBON BLACK IN RUMANIA -- Paris, L'Industrie Chimique, Jun 53

Rumania, which has long been an important producer of carbon black, is now offering a new product called furnace carbon black with improved qualities. The new product is said to equal the best US products. Its specifications are as follows: specific surface, 34 to 39 square meters to the gram; pH 8.7 to 8.9; iodine absorption, 3.8 to 4.5 percent; ash, 0.15 to 0.6 percent; and moisture, 0.5 percent. This product, manufactured by burning natural gas, is exported by Chimimport.

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